

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10, 15-20, and 22 have been examined. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 15-20, and 22 remaining rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rueth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,228,054). Claims 4 and 9 have been objected to.

While not conceding the validity of the prior art rejection, and merely to advance prosecution, Applicant has placed claims 4 and 9 (which have been objected to ) in independent form and has correspondingly canceled claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 15-20, and 22.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Laura C. Brutman

Registration No.: 38,395  
DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
P.O. Box 5257  
New York, New York 10150-5257  
(212) 527-7700  
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)  
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant